THE JEITT UPDATE

The latest news and updates from the Judicial Education Institute of Trinidad and Tobago.

Dear Friends & Colleagues,

This edition of the JEITT Update is reflective of the successful completion of our first Community Outreach, Access to Justice—A Felt Sense Part 1; Prison Visits: Part 1, and the Annual Continuing Education Seminar for Judges, Masters, Registrars and Magistrates. These are just a few highlights of the memorable events that have occurred since December 2017.

The JEITT continues to hold fast to its mandate Transformation through Education, with a particular focus on social and community outreach. As an Institute, we are excited about the continuation of our upcoming educational initiatives that we know will continue to promote an organisation dedicated to the execution of superb justice for communities, executed by Judicial Officers who are well-equipped to do so.

Welcome to the Issue 2 of the JEITT’s Termly Newsletter!
On Thursday 19th April, 2018 at the Jerningham Community Centre in Cunupia, the Judicial Education Institute of Trinidad and Tobago (JEITT) hosted its first Community Outreach Program titled “Access to Justice–A Felt Sense”. Designed with a ‘town hall’ feel in mind, the programme commenced at 5:30 p.m. and ended at 8:30 p.m.

The panel included three Supreme Court Judges namely, The Hon. Mr. Justice Peter Jamadar, J.A. The Hon. Mr. Justice Malcolm Holdip, and The Hon Mme. Justice Kathy-Ann Waterman-Latchoo. Their presentations focused on the imaging of Judicial Officers and the experiences of the litigant combined with the tenets of Procedural Fairness. As a critical voice to the discussion, Court Executive Administrator, Master Christie-Anne Morris-Alleyne was the integral fourth member of the panel, ensuring that the systems and process of the courts were thoroughly explained. Her presentation ensured that all the elements and features of the court system were identified and discussed, to the delight of attendees.

Over the course of the evening, the number of attendees grew, and the JEITT was pleased to welcome members of the Cunupia community as well as members of the wider Judiciary. The event aimed to provide an open forum in which perceptions of the judicial system could be explored, with opportunities created for dialogue and the co-creation of knowledge. Panellists’ presentations lasted approximately two and a half hours, after which the floor was opened to the attendees for the Question and Answer segment. Audience members were eager to participate; questions and comments were plentiful, well-researched, and spirited.

As the country’s Judicial Education Institute, this event provided a meaningful opportunity for opening doorways and engaging dialogue with members of the community. The JEITT was especially grateful for the support of Community Councillor Mr. Andy Smith whose active involvement in the planning process contributed significantly to a successful event.

The JEITT is thrilled to have conceptualised and executed such an initiative. As we continue into other communities, we build upon this success to provide an even more impactful and resonant event.
Cunupia community members alongside Judicial Officers at the Access to Justice Community Outreach.

Judicial Research Counsel II, Kamla Jo Braithwaite, giving out tokens to Q&A contributors.
The JEITT’s publications display.

Members of the Cunupia community selecting tokens.
On Friday 27th April, 2018, a Judiciary group including eleven judicial officers (three judges, two masters and six magistrates) visited the Maximum Security Prison (MSP) at Arouca.

The day began at the JEITT’s Training Centre where the Deputy Commissioner of Prisons, Operations – Mr. Dennis Pulchan, Prison Officer II – Mr. Gill, Prisons Communications Specialist – Ms. Marisa Alexander and a legal representative met the group. Mr. Pulchan gave a brief insight on the MSP, as well as some housekeeping announcements concerning the dos and don’ts at the prison, to all persons visiting the MSP (judicial officers, judiciary security officers, protocol officers, drivers and JEITT staff). The police then escorted the convoy to the MSP.

Upon arrival, Mr. Pulchan introduced the Judiciary group to his team, including some of the heads who would give brief lectures on different areas. The Superintendent of the MSP – Mr. Jackson, took the lead in briefing the group on the visit. The general tour of the facilities included viewing of the wings (for foreigners and locals) in the respective yards, the solitary unit, infirmary, gymnasium, music room and prison band, and the kitchen, where the Judiciary group tasted freshly baked bread, academic and vocational training facilities and the NALIS library. Judicial officers were allowed to interact with remanded and convicted prisoners. Questions and answers were accommodated throughout the visit.

To end the visit, the Judiciary group was escorted to Golden Grove to meet with the executive-Commissioner of Prisons – Mr. Gerard Wilson, Mr. Pulchan and Deputy Commissioner of Prisons Administration, Mr. Dane Clarke. Mr. Wilson expressed his delight at having the Judiciary visit the MSP and was open to any questions. The visit ended with a shared meal.
Judicial officers engaging with inmates at the MSP.

Judicial officers being briefed about the layout of the MSP.
Judicial officers exploring the MSP Library.

Prison Official briefing judicial officers about the MSP Medical facility and procedure.
To ensure the maintenance of a vibrant and effective Judiciary, it is critical that legal knowledge is continually expanded and explored. Continuing legal education training is thereby critical to ensuring that all judicial officers remain informed of current legal trends and advancements in their respective fields. The Judicial JEITT thereby serves the Judiciary through its delivery of continuing legal education with an emphasis on leadership, edification, and development.

The Continuing Education Seminar (CES) is featured as the most significant of the JEITT’s hostings, bringing all judicial officers together to deliberate and collaborate on issues of importance to their community as judicial officers and administrators of justice in Trinidad and Tobago. The CES is thereby an essential element to the strengthening of professional bonds and by extension the threads of the JEITT's fabric. At this years’ CES, two major themes were selected to govern each day’s proceedings, namely: Gender-Sensitive Adjudication (Day 1) and Interrogating and Improving Judicial Roles and Functions (Day 2).
Throughout the Caribbean region, a mandate was given, by Chief Justices, to UN Women that Judiciaries initiate the development of a robust Gender Protocol that will serve as a guiding principle in the adjudication of judicial matters. In Trinidad and Tobago, this undertaking was executed by a committee of local judicial officers alongside court administrators. The project was actualized in collaboration with the Judicial Reform and Institutional Strengthening (JURIST) Project, UN Women, the Caribbean Association of Judicial Officers (CAJO) and the JEITT. Having finalized the *Gender Equality Protocol for Judicial Officers*, Day 1 of the CES was dedicated to showcasing the processes involved in the Protocol’s development, alongside strategies to be used in its implementation throughout the Judiciary of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.


Dr. Charisa-Marie Alexis-François presenting on the historical considerations of the Gender Protocol, a unique feature of the Trinidad and Tobago Protocol.


L-R: Kamla Jo Braithwaite, Elron Elahie and Trisha Dassrath presenting on Sex and Gender terminology.
The second day of the CES was envisioned as one that would facilitate the multiplicity of training needs that judicial officers articulated as necessary for their professional development. This Programme was specially designed in consultation with the Board of the JEITT alongside senior judicial officers. Three streams of training were earmarked, each tailored toward the Civil, Criminal and Family disciplines. They were all inclusive of breakout sessions, panel discussions, and plenary sessions. Judicial officers were given the opportunity to select a stream in line with their area of need.

In essence, both days of the CES 2018 are geared toward providing all judicial officers with the opportunity for knowledge transfer, relationship cohesion, and overall growth and development. The JEITT’s vision for ‘Transformation through Education’ continues to be realized in this annual event.
The Hon. Mme. Justice Alice Yorke-Sooh Hon, J.A. presenting during the Criminal Stream of training.

The Hon. Acting Chief Justice Mr. Justice Mendonca, J.A. offering closing comments.

The Hon. Mr. Justice Ronnie Boodoo Singh, presenting during the Civil Stream of training.

CES 2018 Participants
Procedural Fairness describes the kinds of behaviours and systems that inspire trust in, confer legitimacy on, and bestow authority upon court systems, and internal actors within these systems. It prescribes core, non-negotiable values and standards that are necessary for the legitimate and trustworthy exercise of legal authority within a community and society. Procedural Fairness therefore demands integrity of actions, behaviours, and systems in relation to its constitutive elements; an integrity that must be consistently experienced and perceived by all stakeholders in the court systems, users of the court systems, potential users of the court systems and the general public.

Proceeding Fairly—Report on the Extent to which Elements of Procedural Fairness Exist in the Court Systems of the Judiciary of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago sets out the methodology and results of the JEITT’s two-year research project. The fundamental insight of this research in the context of the court systems of the Judiciary of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, is that process; and in particular a fair process, really matters in Trinidad and Tobago. It matters as much as and even more than outcomes only. What is valued, sought and respected is a process that is perceived and experienced throughout to be fair, attentive, open, trustworthy, impartial, empowering and accountable.

This research shows conclusively, that when Users of the Court Systems of the JRTT and the general public perceive and experience Procedural Fairness throughout their engagements with the court systems of the JRTT, they confer increased trust and confidence in the systems’ decision-making process, consider it as legitimate, and possessing the moral weight to exercise its legal authority. Hence, they are more likely to comply with court orders, directions and regulations, and possibly lead to reduced recidivism.

Procedural Fairness A Manual—A guide to the Implementation of Procedural Fairness in the Court Systems of the Judiciary of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago serves as a guide to the implementation of Procedural Fairness—by setting out practical measures that should be continuously undertaken by JRTT personnel and judicial officers and staff, as the internal actors within the JRTT that interact most with Users of the Court Systems of the JRTT.
JEITT PAST EVENTS

Family Court Training
JRC Orientation
Gender Sensitive Adjudication Training
76th JEITT Board Meeting
CEA Meetings
Security Meetings
Criminal Justice Reform (JURIST)
Magistrate's Half Day Seminar
CAU Meetings
Security Meeting
Maximum Security Prison Visit
Planning Unit’s Staff Retreat
Registrar's Half-Day Seminar
Continuing Education Seminar
Clarity in Judgement Writing/Oral Decisions

JEITT UPCOMING EVENTS

Prison Visit
JEITT Book Launch: Part 2
Access to Justice–A Felt Sense: Part 2
New Publications
Half-Day Seminars
The JEITT Update 2018

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For More Information regarding the Judicial Education Institute of Trinidad and Tobago, Please visit our tab on the Judiciary of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago’s website.

http://www.ttlawcourts.org/index.php/judicial-education-institute/about-jeitt